Phone conversation with James Lawrence, 225 East Washington St., Ripley, Tenn 3/3/71

Lawrence phoned me pursuant to my conversation with Ronald Hanover in Memphis on Sunday 2/28/71. Lawrence actually worked in renting Trade-Mart space under Hanover. I have not yet typed a memo on my conversation with Hanover. They are consistent in all major respects, that they were engaged to contract the space so that there would be financing for the construction, and that they exceeded their minimum. Lawrence's recollection is that $1,900,000 was needed and they went over $2,000,000.

He had little to do with Shaw, but Shaw did also contact some of the people he knew to rent space. However, when I told him the essence of Cobb's and Shaw's testimony, that without Shaw the whole thing would have fallen apart, he laughed.

Lawrence's recollection is that he was in New Orleans renting space from some time in 1963, intermittently, until 1970. These periods would range from 2 weeks to 6 months.

Their accomodations were arranged by Dolores Heeley, who seemed to be the ITM girl Friday, not just Jesse Core's secretary. She placed them at the Royal Orleans, which was within easy walking distance, not the Roosevelt, as I'd thought the reports say. Palmisano, when Lawrence last heard of him, was working with a glass company in N.O. and before he left N.O. Dolores had gone to work for the mortgage loan company, which also had an office there.

He was surprised, about two weeks after the assassination, when an FBI agent walked in and said, "MY name is Lawrence, too", and proceeded to speak to him for about 5 minutes. He showed them one picture from the WDSU footage, presumeably, and each identified himself in it. I recall no reference to Hanover anywhere, but this is also what Hanover told me.

I suspect that if this picture was withheld from the Commission, the most reasonable explanation might be that it shows the "third man".

Whether or not Shaw helped with the rental, it is clear that this company, Cross Country, and the two men, were hired for that purpose. At first Lawrence said he was in charge, which is approximately what the FBI report says, but that really meant under Hanover, who was his boss.

I thought Cobb and Shaw were good friends.

He is to send me a snapshot of him and ask Ronnie to do likewise, so I can see if any of the available pictures includes them, and I said I'd get pictures for them, showing either them and Oswald or, if they are not in any available, showing the event, with LHO.